

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing hardware resources, comprising:
~~connecting to the resources;~~
providing an executable software module configured to communicate with modules
~~corresponding to the~~ hardware resources, ~~the modules each implementing a common interface~~
~~and corresponding to a different one of the resources;~~
~~making calls to the common interface in each of~~ operating the executable software
module ~~modules~~ to cause the executable software module ~~modules~~ to return information about
the ~~corresponding~~ hardware resources, wherein the information includes ~~at least one of~~ hardware
configuration information associated with the hardware resources ~~and of~~ customer information
~~associated with customers of the hardware resources, wherein the customer information includes~~
network addresses of the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the
hardware resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing

application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the hardware resources by the customers; and

storing the ~~information about the corresponding resources~~ hardware configuration information and the customer information in a database ~~comprising at least one table containing the at least one of the hardware configuration information associated with the resources or the customer information.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware resources comprise data storage resources.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data storage resources reside in a datacenter controlled by a storage service provider.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising presenting the hardware configuration information and the customer information to an administrator of the storage service provider.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the hardware configuration information comprises data storage resource attributes.

6. (Original) The method claim 5, further comprising enabling the administrator to select, for a given data storage resource, which of the data storage attributes are to be stored in the database.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the executable software module comprises ~~modules comprise~~ JAVA classes.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
generating a directory of the hardware resources ~~executable modules~~; and
~~placing each of the executable modules in~~ storing the directory in the database.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the executable software module ~~common interface~~ comprises a set of methods.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the methods include a first method that, when called, ~~cause~~ causes the executable software module to identify a type of hardware resource with which the executable software module is configured to communicate ~~the class of resources monitored by that executable module~~, and a second method that, when called, causes the software executable module to identify ~~discover~~ any hardware resources with which the executable software is configured to communicate ~~resources within the identified class that are connected~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the methods further include a third method that, when called, causes the executable software module to poll the hardware resources ~~that were identified discovered~~ by the executable software module to provide attribute information associated with the hardware resources.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein results of the polling are provided in XML format.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the results of the polling are provided in a format other than XML and the executable software module performing the polling converts the results of the polling to XML format.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the methods further comprise a fourth method that, when called, causes the executable software module to return a list of services and associated parameters.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 12, wherein the methods further comprise a fifth method that, when called, causes the executable software module to execute a requested one of the services on a list of services.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, ~~wherein making calls to the common interface comprises making a call to the fifth method, and~~ wherein making a call to the fifth method comprises specifying values of parameters associated with the requested one of the services ~~received from a customer of the service provider.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
adding a new data storage resource to the datacenter;
~~connecting to the new data storage resources;~~
~~providing a new one of the executables modules to correspond to the new data storage resources; and~~
placing the new data storage resource in a directory of hardware resources ~~one of the executable modules in the directory.~~

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for managing hardware resources, the computer program product comprising instructions causing a computer to:
provide an executable software module configured to communicate with the hardware resources;

operate the executable software module to cause the executable software module to return information about the hardware resources, wherein the information includes hardware configuration information associated with the hardware resources and customer information associated with customers of the hardware resources, wherein the customer information includes network addresses of the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the hardware resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the hardware resources by the customers; and

store the hardware configuration information and the customer information in a database,

connect to the resources;

provide executable modules corresponding to the resources, the modules each implementing a common interface and corresponding to a different one of the resources;

make calls to the common interface in each of the executable modules to cause the executable modules to return information about the corresponding resources, the information comprising at least one of hardware configuration information associated with the resources or customer information; and

store the information about the corresponding resources in a database comprising at least one table containing the at least one of the hardware configuration information associated with the resources or the customer information.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for managing storage resources comprising:

a server configured to execute software for managing resources to which the server is connected, and

wherein the software includes ~~resource-specific~~ an executable software module ~~modules~~ each corresponding to a different one of the managed configured to communicate with the storage resources, wherein the software module includes a method configured to and a resource- independent device configured to use the executable modules to monitor changes in hardware configuration of the storage resources, configured to gather attribute and attributes information associated with the corresponding managed devices and storage resources, configured to store storage resource configuration information associated with the storage resources and configured to store customer information associated with customers of the storage resources, wherein the customer information includes network addresses of the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the storage resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the storage resources by the customers the hardware configuration and attributes information associated with the corresponding managed devices from the executable modules in a database comprising a table containing the hardware configuration and attributes information for the managed devices.

Claims 21 to 23 (Cancelled)